

MORAL RE-ARMAMENT

A PLAY WITH A MESSAGE: CITY PERFORMANCE

That the way to happiness in the home and in industry can be gained through mutual respect, tolerance and understanding—in short, moral re-armament—is the message conveyed by “The Forgotten Factor,” the play staged in the Opera House last night.

Having shown phenomenal pacific results in industrial disputes and other national discord in many countries where the play was produced, “The Forgotten Factor” has been brought to South Africa for the second time. Last night’s performance was attended by the Mayor, Mr. J. S. Young, heads of Municipal departments, trade union leaders, industrialists, businessmen and “men in the street.”

Apart from its fine moral, the play provides outstanding entertainment as it unfolds the story of the breeding of hatred of the employees for the “bosses” and vice versa in a big industrial concern in America—a hatred which is not confined to the clashing of interests and ambitions, but makes bitter personal enemies of a union organiser and the head of the business.

They are eventually brought to see reason through the efforts of the young son of the industrialist who instils into both men the essential ideals of moral re-armament.

Introducing the play, Mr. C. H. Burns, who is responsible for the party, said: “‘The Forgotten Factor’ is more than a play. It is a force and a weapon in the fight for a new world. We in the Democracies must learn to win that fight.” The setting of the play was in American homes and industry, but it could be applied anywhere in homes, industry and in politics, he said.

At the end of the performance, Mr. Henry McNicol, who played the union organiser, said that in the modern world, everybody wanted a change for the better, but each man and each nation waited for the other to make a start. The place to begin was in oneself. That personal change was not the end, but only the beginning of better things.

The names of the players, all of whom showed exceptional ability, have not been publicised. They perform with the one aim of putting an ideal before the world.